

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An image formation device that uses recording agents of multiple colors to form a color image on a medium like paper, said image formation device comprising:

an image formation module that holds multiple recording agent cartridges respectively filled with the recording agents of the multiple colors in an attachable and detachable manner and integrally moves said multiple recording agent cartridges in a circumferential direction to sequentially form corresponding color component images and to eventually form a color image with supplies of the recording agents from said multiple recording agent cartridges;

an information transmission module that is arranged at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position where each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches after formation of a corresponding color component image at an image-forming circumferential position, said information transmission module transmitting information regarding cumulative consumption of recording agents with the additional consumption of the recording agents during formation of a corresponding color component image in a contactless, storable manner to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image at the image-forming circumferential position and has moved in the circumferential direction to the posterior circumferential position; and

a control module that controls said information transmission module to store image formation-relating information, which regards formation of the color image by said image formation module, into each of said storage elements mounted on said multiple recording agent cartridges.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said control module controls said information transmission module to store previous image formation-relating information, which regards formation of a previous color image, in the course of formation of the corresponding color component images by said image formation module.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the image formation-relating information includes at least either of a number of formed images with regard to each of the multiple colors and a consumption of the recording agent with regard to each of the multiple colors.

6. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said multiple recording agent cartridges are filled with recording agents of four colors, that is, cyan, magenta, yellow, and black.

7. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said image formation module separately holds said multiple recording agent cartridges on a rotatable, quasi-cylindrical rotary holder unit and rotates the rotary holder unit to form the respective color component images.

8. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 7, wherein each of said multiple recording agent cartridges is designed to have a substantially fan-shaped cross section and form a substantially circular cross section as a whole in the case of attachment of said multiple recording agent cartridges to the rotary holder unit.

9. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 7, wherein said information transmission module is located in a neighborhood of an end of the rotary holder unit.

10. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 9, wherein said information transmission module is located to successively face said storage elements mounted on said multiple recording agent cartridges with rotation of the rotary holder unit.

11. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recording agent is either toner or ink.

12. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said storage element comprises: a memory unit that stores information; a receiver unit that receives electromagnetic wave in a predetermined frequency band; an information analyzer unit that analyzes information carried on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band received by said receiver unit; and an information control unit that, when the analyzed information includes storage instruction information for storage of the image formation-relating information, controls said memory unit to store the image formation-relating information, which is sent on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band and is analyzed by said information analyzer unit, and

said information transmission module transmits the information carried on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band.

13. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 12, wherein said storage element further comprises a power supply unit that utilizes energy of the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band received by said receiver unit to generate electric power required for the analysis of information by said information analyzer unit and for the storage of information by said information control unit.

14. (Currently Amended) An image formation device that uses a recording agent to form an image on a medium like paper, said image formation device comprising:

an image formation module that holds multiple recording agent cartridges respectively filled with the recording agent in an attachable and detachable manner and integrally moves said

multiple recording agent cartridges in a circumferential direction to sequentially form corresponding color component images and to eventually form a color image with a supply of the recording agent from at least one recording agent cartridge among said multiple recording agent cartridges;

an information transmission module that is arranged at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position where each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches after formation of a corresponding color component image at an image-forming circumferential position, said information transmission module transmitting information regarding cumulative consumption of recording agents with the additional consumption of the recording agents during formation of a corresponding color component image in a contactless, storable manner to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image at the image-forming circumferential position and has moved in the circumferential direction to the posterior circumferential position; and

a control module that controls said information transmission module to store image formation-relating information, which regards formation of the image by said image formation module, into each of said storage elements mounted on said multiple recording agent cartridges.

15. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, said image formation device further comprising:

a cartridge specification module that specifies one recording agent cartridge among said multiple recording agent cartridges,

wherein said image formation module forms the image with a supply of the recording agent from said one recording agent cartridge specified by said cartridge specification module.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, wherein said control module controls said information transmission module to store the image formation-relating information into a storage element mounted on a specified recording agent cartridge, in response to a detachment instruction of said specified recording agent cartridge.

20. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the image formation-relating information includes at least either of a number of formed images and a consumption of the recording agent.

21. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, wherein said image formation module separately holds said multiple recording agent cartridges on a rotatable, quasi-cylindrical rotary holder unit and rotates the rotary holder unit to form the image.

22. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 21, wherein each of said multiple recording agent cartridges is designed to have a substantially fan-shaped cross section and form a substantially circular cross section as a whole in the case of attachment of said multiple recording agent cartridges to the rotary holder unit.

23. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 21, wherein said information transmission module is located in a neighborhood of an end of the rotary holder unit.

24. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 23, wherein said information transmission module is located to successively face said storage elements mounted on said multiple recording agent cartridges with rotation of the rotary holder unit.

25. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the recording agent is either toner or ink.

26. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 14, wherein said storage element comprises: a memory unit that stores information; a receiver unit that receives electromagnetic wave in a predetermined frequency band; an information analyzer unit that analyzes information carried on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band received by said receiver unit; and an information control unit that, when the analyzed information includes storage instruction information for storage of the image formation-relating information, controls said memory unit to store the image formation-relating information, which is sent on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band and is analyzed by said information analyzer unit, and

said information transmission module transmits the information carried on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band.

27. (Original) An image formation device in accordance with claim 26, wherein said storage element further comprises a power supply unit that utilizes energy of the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band received by said receiver unit to generate electric power required for the analysis of information by said information analyzer unit and for the storage of information by said information control unit.

28-35. (Canceled)